

RE Term 3 Knowledge Organiser – What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?

Key Vocabulary

Aum	Symbolises the Universe and the ultimate reality. It is the most important Hindu symbols.
Brahman	The God of creation and supreme spirit of all life.
Karma	A belief that good or bad actions determine the future of an individual's existence.
Mandir	A Hindu temple.
Moksha	The result of being released from the cycle of rebirth.
Murti	A sacred image or depiction of a deity.
Samsara	The process of reincarnation (continuous cycle in which the soul is reborn over and over again.)
Trimurti	The three aspects of the universal supreme God (Brahman, Vishnu and Shiva).
Shrine	A place where Hindu deities are worshipped.
Diwali	Hindu festival of light.
Puja	Hindu act of worship
Arti	a ritual performed in homes and temples in which incense and light.
Bhajans	A devotional song.



What should I already know:

- Hindus believe in one God, the Ultimate Reality, known as Brahman.
- Hindus believe in a cycle of life, death and rebirth.
- Diwali and Holi are two important Hindu festivals.
- Hinduism is a religion that has fused many different traditions and practices. There is no one way to be a Hindu. In saying this, all Hindus believe in four core beliefs: dharma, karma and moksha.
- Throughout their lives, Hindus attempt to behave in a way that provides good karma in this life and the next. In this way, Hinduism is not just a religion; it is a culture, a code of behaviour and a way of life.

Hindus and showing their faith

Hindu worship is primarily an individual act rather than a communal one, as it involves making personal offerings to the deity. Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses and repeat mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to God.

Most Hindu homes have a shrine where offerings are made, and prayers are said; family members may choose to worship together in the home. Rituals should strictly speaking occur three times a day.

When they attend the mandir, Hindus take off their shoes as a sign of respect and cleanliness. The worshipper then goes into the shrine room and rings a bell before walking around the shrine; they may choose to sing, chant or pray whilst doing this.

